case. I would like to remove the impression in this connection that the Government are indifferent in regard to the enhancement of facilities for export and import and to the development of their ports. I do not think that a more incorrect impression of things could exist. The Government are doing everything that they could possibly do to develop their ports ; but there is not a single port in Travancore which is open all the year round. Government are examining a scheme for making the Neendakara bar ever open, if possible. The Government have also called for proposals for enhancing the facilities to the traders at Alleppey and they have also a scheme for extending the pier at Trivandrum. Also, they are considering whether it would be possible to have something like a pier at Colachel. Government are engaged in looking into the requirements of the several ports and considering the creation of facilities according to the necessities of each. I would, therefore, state in this connection that it is not correct to say that the Government are indifferent in the matter of the development of their ports.

Then you referred to the appointment of agents—officers corresponding to consuls. I do not think that you have examined the matter thoroughly. I do not think that the dimensions of our trade are so great as to justify the appointment of consuls in the different commercial centres of the world. In regard to the elimination of the middleman and the provision of facilities for the traders to deal direct with the firms in foreign countries, I would say that the Director of Industries, more than a year ago, published a notice stating that he would be ready to obtain information regarding the markets where our goods would find the best sale, if only the people would apply to him for such information. If the exporter of a particular article wishes to know which is the best market for his article, the Director would enquire, find it out and let him know. I do not think the Director of Industries has received many enquiries in that direction. The decision of this Government to take part in the London Exhibition of 1924 has been made with the object of seeing whether we could get the best market for our goods and to see what the prices are that we could get for our goods, and if possible to see whether we should send out all our products as raw materials or as manufactured goods.

You referred to avenues. You will remember that I stated in my Address yesterday that, as regards the question of planting avenues, I had asked the Chief Engineer to submit proposals. Personally, I am also of opinion that, in addition to affording shade, these trees should also be a source of income. The matter is now pending with the Chief Engineer and Government will look into the same.

3. Suggestions for the adoption of a better financial policy for Government.

Mr. P. S. Manikkam Chettiyar (Member, Nominated) expressed satisfaction at the policy pursued by the Government in cutting down unnecessary expenditure without impairing efficiency and in appointing Indians to high offices hitherto held by Europeans. He also pointed out that the Kallar Scheme, the establishment of a Match factory and a Sugar factory, the opening of Panchayat Courts, the reduction of the Revenue Divisions and taluks, the establishment of Bench Magistrates, etc., clearly showed how deeply the Dewan was interested in the general welfare of the country He then observed that, although, on the whole, the State might be said to be prosperous, the condition of the agriculturists required improvement, and that it was regrettable that a sufficient number of educated men with the requisite qualifications were not coming forward to study the peculiar economic problems of the State on scientific lines and to spread correct ideas in regard to those problems among the people. He then referred to certain unsatisfactory features of the agricultural conditions in the State, such as the division and subdivision of land into numerous small holdings, the indebtedness of the agriculturists, the deterioration of cattle, the wastage of cattle manure, etc., and observed that, had the Government given as much attention to those matters as they deserved, they would not have raised all at once market fees, tolls, boat license fees, anchal rates, process fees and copying fees. He advocated a permanent revenue settlement for Travancore.

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The Member was of opinion that additional revenue could be raised by increasing the duty on imports and revising the terms of the Interportal Trade Convention. He hoped that the conditions of the Convention would undergo modification when the Cochin Harbour Scheme was completed. The income from the minor produce of forests could be further increased and it would be advisable to appoint a committee to study the nature, quantity, utility, etc., of such produce. Succession duties to be paid by heirs inheriting large estates might be introduced with advantage. A light fee might be levied for imparting primary education, the poor being given free scholarships.

He then advocated the adoption by the Government of the system of raising loans for meeting the expenditure involved in reproductive works of enduring utility.

Referring to the abkari revenue, the Member said that the Government should be glad to see it decreasing and that the temperance movement paved the way for the health and wealth of the people, giving stimulus to agriculture, commerce and industry. Government should, therefore, seek to develop other sources of revenue. Any tax on the agriculturists after resettlement should be avoided. The income-tax, which, in his opinion, was the only equitable tax, might, however, be gradually increased.

In regard to co-operation, he said that, in the Punjab, membership and working capital had increased by 50 per cent. within the past two years, that the Government had given 100 acres of land to the Land Mortgage Bank, that the land-owners secured loans from that bank on small rates of interest, that Arbitration Societies and Societies working for the consolidation of small holdings had been established, and that those were reforms which could be well adopted by the Travancore Government.

Turning to the question of retrenchment, the Member observed that the policy should be to increase the pay of officers and exact more work from them. He advocated the appointment of a Retrenchment Committee to eliminate all unnecessary offices, etc.

More money should be spent on the Departments of Agriculture, Industry and Co-operation. Primary education should be handed over to local authorities. Closer scrutiny should be exercised as regards the expenditure under travelling allowances, stationery, annual repairs, etc. Certain posts, he said, carried a higher pay than necessary and the best way of preventing the rush for public service was to reduce the emoluments of the services. The system of giving allowances to Government officers for discharging slight additional duties should be stopped. Grants to Municipalities should be gradually cut down. The age of retirement of officers might be raised with a view to reduce the pension charges. The number of Divisions and taluks was capable of further reduction. There was scope for reduction in the number of higher offices in the Department of Public Works as well as in the amount of travelling allowance paid to Police officers. The post of Assistant Tahsildars might be abolished with advantage, as those officers had not given satisfaction either to the Government or the public.

Dewan's reply.—You have spoken about several matters without giving me previous notice. Government will consider all your suggestions.

4. A fair, equitable and efficient administration of the State Finance.

Mr. Krishna Pillai Govinda Pillai (Member, Kottayam Taluk) said that he was grateful to the Government for the assurance given that they had no idea of imposing any additional tax at present. He urged a revision of the terms of the Interportal Trade Convention, as was done by Mr. Banerji in Cochin, as that would bring in more revenue to the State. Further, the introduction of a light *kuttikkanam*, to be realised in easy instalments, on all royal trees of a definite girth standing on private holdings, and giving the holder of the land full right over the trees, as in the Malabar District, would be a means of increasing the revenues of the State while at the same time redressing the grievances of land owners on account of the interference

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